SMUGGLING OPERATION CAUSES FERRY SINKING

ATHENS (JUNE 21) XINHUA - According to a report by the Athens News Agency, the sinking of the passenger ferry Estonia in the Baltic Sea last September was due to a smuggling operation involving 100 tons of heroin and 40 tons of prohibited metals.

The report quotes from a Cypriot merchant marine informant claiming that Russian drug traffickers were transporting the herion and metals on the ferry when they were tipped off that Swedish police were waiting for them in Stockholm.

According to the document, as the smugglers tried to ditch the metals, water entered one of the bow doors due to the heavy sea. At the same time, trucks which had been released in order for those containing the illicit shipment of metals to be pushed overboard began to shift, resulting in the sinking of the vessel.

NEW LITHUANIAN "BOEING" MAKES ITS FIRST FLIGHT

VILNIUS, Jun 29, BNS - Lithuanian Airlines newly-purchased Boeing 737-200, named "Steponas Darius" after Lithuania's legendary aviation pioneer, took off from the runway at Vilnius airport 7.15 a.m. Thursday and landed in Amsterdam at 8:40. The airplane carried 43 of a potential 105 passengers on board. Lithuanian Airlines, supported by the government bought the aircraft for US $8.3 million from the US company Empire Capital Corporation. Meanwhile, Stasys Dalydka, director general of Lithuanian Airlines, has gone to London for talks on the purchase of another 737-200

AN OFFICIAL STATISTICS - THE MAY SALARIES

VILNIUS, June 27, ELTA - Lithuanian Statistics Department said inflation in Lithuania during the last five months was 15.6 percent, down from 20.4 percent for the same period in 1994. May inflation was 2.2 percent versus 1.4 percent for March and April of this year. From January to May, industrial output was 4.625 billion litai, up 565 million litai over 1994.

LITH. OPERA OF CHICAGO IS PLANNING ~~AE~~ JOINT PERFORMANCES W/ KAUNAS MUSICAL THEATRE. BOTH IN CHICAGO & ~~KAUNAS~~ CITIES IN LITH. JURATE IR KASTYTIS BY ~~BA~~ VICTORAS BANAITIS